### ELENA Completed Project Factsheet

**Energy Project in Large Cities in Overijssel**

(EP OVERIJSSEL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of planned investments</th>
<th>Province of Overijssel</th>
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<td>Final Beneficiary</td>
<td>Province of Overijssel</td>
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</table>
| Final Beneficiary’s address      | Province of Overijssel  
Postbus 10078  
8000 GB Zwolle  
The Netherlands |
| CoM signatory                   | No                     |
| Sector                          | EE in non-residential buildings, EE in residential buildings, district heating and street lighting |
| Total PDS costs                 | EUR 2 386 653.81 |
| ELENA contribution              | EUR 2 147 988.43 |

**Project development services financed by ELENA**

The ELENA assistance co-financed the provision of external services in support of the implementation of the programme. In the IP A (public buildings), the assistance focused on establishing a viable business case for renovation of public buildings using a public ESCO /other ESCOs, and to support the implementation process from project preparation to procurement of works. Under IP B (residential buildings), the support was used to mobilize and provide technical assistance to private households to renovate their dwellings. Under IP C (district heating), the ELENA assistance was focused on providing assistance to the preparation of several DH schemes, namely by delivering business plans as well as technical studies required and providing support during the procurement process. In addition, the Province of Overijssel also provided technical support to the implementation of a street lighting related project. The ELENA facility also financed the management of the ELENA project that was provided by an external consultant. The Province used the ELENA grant only for external expertise.

**Description of ELENA operation**

The investments were mobilized by public and private entities. Investments in public buildings and street lighting were both financed by ESCOs and by own funds. Investments in residential sector were financed by the homeowners. Investments in district heating were financed both by public and private funds, including in some cases public subsidies. The private parties followed their own internal procedures to procure the investments while the public entities tendered the investments in accordance with the applicable public procurement rules.

**Timeframe**

November 2016 – May 2021

**Investment programme description**

The programme included four investment priorities:

- energy efficiency and RES in public buildings: 67 projects related to the energy renovation and/or installation of PV projects in public buildings were implemented,
- energy efficiency and RES in residential buildings: 1 building renovated,
- district heating related projects: 5 projects related to use of renewable heat sources (biogas and geothermal energy) and to the expansion of existing DH networks,
- energy efficiency in street lighting: 3,200 lighting points.
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<th>Investment in implementation phase</th>
<th>EUR 53.3 M</th>
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| Results expected to be achieved    | - Energy savings of 21.77 GWh/y  
- Renewable energy generation of 142.55 GWh/a  
- GHG emission reduction of 33,798 tCO$_2$ eq/a |
| Leverage factor achieved           | 24.79 |

**Lessons learnt**

- The project included investment from 5 municipalities located in the province of Overijssel. Bundling investments from several municipalities in a joint application is in theory possible but, in real terms, that collaboration also brought some challenges as the province was responsible to hire and pay for the experts but had little or no influence on the investment decisions of the individual projects,
- As result of this project, the Province of Overijssel was approached by other Dutch province to know about the ELENA facility,
- The original P-ESCo model was not implemented during the ELENA project. An alternative approach, using ESCOs and own funds was implemented with the following lessons learned:
  - First, the deployment of acceleration teams works. Both in making schools more sustainable and solar energy on roofs, it was proven that independent acceleration teams actually accelerate sustainability because they bring the expertise that the owners and users of buildings do not always have. The rooftop solar acceleration team continues to be deployed to support building owners in solar energy, which is not their core business.
  - Second, the decision to no longer use a P-ESCo (this model was not embraced by the municipal real estate companies) allowed to offer tailor-made solutions in order to still accelerate the process of making the built environment more sustainable. The use of private ESCOs will continue to be used in Overijssel to support building owners in investing in sustainability.
- District heating projects cannot be implemented in 4 years. This was raised before with geothermal energy in Zwolle. The lead time does not fit within the ELENA period. Because these projects are subject to great uncertainties in the technical, financial and legal fields. This requires thorough preparation and more time. Especially because the heat transition must also be communicated very well with residents,
- As described in the context of making the built environment in Overijssel more sustainable, Covid-19 pandemic had a major effect on the pace of making the built environment more sustainable, namely:
  - Decisions were postponed or cancelled. In particular, important decisions to invest in heat networks were taken much later than planned.
  - People are meeting each other less.
  - Priorities are set elsewhere than sustainability of the buildings;
  - People are absent due to illness and informal care.
- However, the main conclusion is that the ELENA programme had a significant impact on the acceleration of the energy transition. The cooperation between different partners implementing the sustainability measures has resulted in a unique and successful ELENA programme.

**Further information sources**

Project website: [https://www.nieuwenenergieoverijssel.nl/elena-programma-overijssel/](https://www.nieuwenenergieoverijssel.nl/elena-programma-overijssel/)

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